

**REMARKS**

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 37-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that the range of 1.5-50 vol.% of alpha SiAlON is not found in the disclosure. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the amended claim 37, which now recites a range of 15-50 vol.% which finds disclosure at page 2, line 1. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 40 was rejected under the same statute because support for 5 microns is allegedly not found in the disclosure. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the amended claim 40 which now recites a maximum grain size of less than 90 microns. Support for this amendment is found at page 3, line 9. Thus, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 38-41, 43 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite because "the material" lacks antecedent basis. The term "the material" has been replaced with "the compact" in certain of the claims, as appropriate, to overcome this rejection, since claim 37 recites "A compact". Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

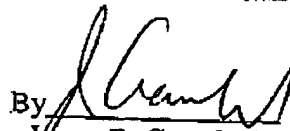
Claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph but has been canceled to expedite prosecution of this application.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-DNAG-314-US.

Respectfully submitted

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